

CONFEDERATE FLAG

CIVIL WAR

71.2009.025.0431

The Civil War

Confederate Flag

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Curators sniff out lost nose

BOSTON (AP) — For 70 years, King Aspelta stood among other Nubian artifacts in the Museum of Fine Arts with a black granite cleft where his nose should be. Little did curators know that the missing schnoz was right under their own.

The museum acquired the 8-ton, 11-foot statue of the ancient African king from an archaeological site in Sudan in 1923.

Last fall, a student researcher and a curator discovered that a palm-sized chunk in the museum's basement — among 40,000 other pieces of Nubian fragments — was Aspelta's missing nostril and bridge.

"We never had any expectation that we'd find it, let alone in our collection. It was just a complete, absolute fluke," said Timothy Kendall, the associate curator.

The nose had been mistakenly identified as a "polished blade."

The king ruled over a part of northeast Africa from 600 to 580 B.C. Kendall believes Aspelta's nose was lopped off almost 2,600 years ago by Egyptians who wanted to disfigure the statue after invading that territory.

"Normally they would break off the nose, to keep it from breathing. They believed that statues contained the spirit of the person they represented, so they tried to 'kill' it," Kendall said.

Restorationists plan to reattach the nose in the next several months.

FLAG FIRE

Friday, April 22, 1994 THE NEWS-SENTINEL 3H



By the Associated Press

Jerome Smalls of Charleston, S.C., wears chains to reflect his slave ancestry as he holds a Confederate battle flag yesterday. Smalls was among the demonstrators in Columbia, S.C., who want the flag removed from atop the Statehouse. A state Senate committee held a hearing on the flag issue yesterday while protesters took to the streets.

A Yes for the Confederate Flag

The Associated Press

Undeterred by the threat of an economic boycott of their state, South Carolina Republicans voted overwhelmingly in Tuesday's primary to keep the Confederate flag battle flying over the Statehouse.

In other primary voting, Georgia and Colorado picked candidates for governor, while South Carolina's candidates for governor in both parties were forced into a runoff when no one received a majority.

The nonbinding referendum on the flag topped the Republican primary ballot in South Carolina, the last state to fly the Confederate banner atop its Capitol.

Republicans, who put the question on the ballot to increase interest in their primary, voted 76 percent to 24 percent to keep the flag aloft. Asked whether the flag should be taken down from the Statehouse dome, 180,614 voters said no and 57,090 said yes, with 91 percent of precincts reporting.

Civil rights groups have threatened an economic boycott of South Carolina unless the Confederate battle flag comes down by Labor Day. It has flown atop the Statehouse in Columbia since 1962. Supporters of the flag say it honors Southern heritage, but many blacks and others say it is a

reminder of slavery and segregation. The flags of Georgia and Mississippi incorporate elements of the Confederate battle flag in their design.

In Georgia on Tuesday, Guy Millner, an Atlanta millionaire, defeated John Knox, a former Mayor of Waycross, in the Republican runoff for governor. Mr. Millner, who founded Norrell Services, the nation's sixth-largest temporary services agency, faces Gov. Zell Miller, a first-term Democrat, in the Nov. 8 general election.

In Colorado, Bruce Benson, a millionaire oilman, easily won the Republican nomination to challenge Gov. Roy Romer, who was unopposed in his bid for a third term. He had 61 percent of the vote to 22 percent for his closest rival, State Senator Michael C. Bird of Colorado Springs.

In South Carolina's Republican primary for governor, former State Representative David Beasley got 48 percent of the vote. His nearest opponent, United States Representative Arthur Ravenel Jr., got 32 percent. Gov. Carroll A. Campbell Jr., a Republican, is barred from seeking a third consecutive term.

On the Democratic side, Lieut. Gov. Nick A. Theodore fell just short of a majority in a four-way field and will face Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. of Charleston in a runoff.

South Carolina Rally Supports Use of Confederate Battle Flag

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., Sept. 4 (AP) — Hundreds of Confederate battle flags snapped in the breeze of this coastal resort today, a fierce answer to an N.A.A.C.P. demand that the banner be removed from the state Capitol.

Battle flags of all sizes adorned cars and were waved by children and adults at a rally that drew about 400 people, a day after a march here by the N.A.A.C.P. protesting the flag.

"If we can have a Martin Luther King Day, a Black History Month, why can't we have the Confederate battle flag fly above the Statehouse?" William Carter, president of the state chapter of the Council of Conservative Citizens, told the cheering, all-white crowd.

South Carolina is the only state to fly the battle flag — a blue X with white stars on a red background — above its Capitol. Georgia and Mississippi incorporate the banner's design in their state flags.

Defenders honor the flag as a tribute to Southern culture and history. Opponents say it is a blatant symbol of slavery and bigotry.

Threatened Boycott Delayed

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which had threatened a boycott of the state unless the flag was removed by Labor Day, said on Saturday that it would postpone a decision to call for the boycott at least until the state

A day after an N.A.A.C.P. protest, backers of the Rebel banner respond.

Supreme Court decides if it will rule on the issue.

"Every time I see that flag, it is an attack on my dignity," the group's national chairman, William Gibson, said on Saturday at the N.A.A.C.P. march, which was attended by about 1,000 people, mostly blacks.

Hilton Head was chosen for the N.A.A.C.P. march because of its tourism industry, but more demonstrations are planned in the state.

The state Legislature raised the banner to the Capitol dome in 1962 during the Civil War centennial. On the last day of the 1994 legislative session, lawmakers killed a bill that would have removed the flag and instead placed similar banners on the Statehouse grounds along with a civil rights monument.

A coalition opposing use of the flag said on Saturday that the state Supreme Court was the "last hope" for a peaceful resolution.

Leaders of civic and business groups have asked the court to mediate a settlement. The court has not decided if it will hear the matter.



Wade Spees for The New York Times

James Mars of Clinton, S.C., marching at Hilton Head Island yesterday to support keeping the Confederate battle flag flying over South Carolina's Capitol. The march drew about 400 people.

9/5/1994

Confederate flag at old N.C. Capitol coming down

usatoday.com

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) —A Confederate battle flag hung inside the old North Carolina State Capitol last week to mark the sesquicentennial of the Civil War is being taken down after civil rights leaders raised concerns.

The decision was announced Friday evening, hours after the Associated Press published a story about the flag, which officials said was part of an historical display intended to replicate how the antebellum building appeared in 1863. The flag had been planned to hang in the House chamber until April 2015, the 150th anniversary of the arrival of federal troops in Raleigh.

"This is a temporary exhibit in an historic site, but I've learned the governor's administration is going to use the old House chamber as working space," Cultural Resources Secretary Susan Klutzz said Friday night. "Given that information, this display will end this weekend rather than April of 2015."

Kim Genardo, the spokeswoman for Gov. Pat McCrory, said the exhibit that includes the Confederate battle flag will be relocated, possibly across the street to the N.C. Museum of History.

The decision was a quick about-face for the McCrory administration, which initially defended the display. Many people see the flag as a potent reminder of racial discrimination and bigotry.

State Historic Sites Director Keith Hardison had said Thursday the flag should be viewed in what he called the proper historical context.

"Our goal is not to create issues," said Hardison, a Civil War re-enactor and history buff. "Our goal is to help people understand issues of the past. ... If you refuse to put something that someone might object to or have a concern with in the exhibit, then you are basically censoring history."

North Carolina NAACP president Rev. William Barber was shocked Friday when he was shown a photo of the flag by the AP.

"He is right that it has a historical context," Barber said. "But what is that history? The history of racism. The history of lynchings. The history of death. The history of slavery. If you say that shouldn't be offensive, then either you don't know the history, or you are denying the history."

Barber couldn't immediately be reached Friday night, after the decision to take down the flag.

Sessions of the General Assembly moved to a newer building a half-century ago, but the old Capitol building is still routinely used as a venue for official state government events. McCrory's office is on the first floor, as are the offices of his chief of staff and communications staff.

The Republican governor was in the House chamber where the Confederate flag hangs as recently as Thursday, when he presided over the swearing-in ceremony of his new Highway Patrol commander.

The presentation of the Confederate battle flag at state government buildings has long been an issue of debate throughout the South. For more than a decade, the NAACP has urged its members to boycott South Carolina because of that state's display of the flag on the State House grounds.

Prior to taking his current job in North Carolina in 2006, Hardison worked as director at the Mississippi

home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, which is operated as a museum and library owned by the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The group has led the fight in the South for the proud display of the Confederate flag, which it contends is a symbol of heritage, not hate.

Hardison said the battle flag was displayed with other flags described in the diary of a North Carolina woman who visited the Capitol in 1863. A large U.S. flag displayed in the Senate chamber is reminiscent of a trophy of war captured from Union troops at the Battle of Plymouth.

"I thought, wouldn't it be wonderful to recreate this?" Hardison said. "I think we were all thinking along the same vein. ... The Capitol is both a working seat of government, in that the governor and his staff has his office there. But it is also a museum."

Hardison pointed out that the national flag used by the Confederate government, with its circle of white stars and red and white stripes, is still flown over the State Capitol dome each year on Confederate Memorial Day. The more familiar blood-red battle flag, featuring a blue "X" studded with white stars, was used by the rebel military.

David Goldfield, a history professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and author of the book "Still Fighting the Civil War," said the battle flag can hold starkly different meanings depending on a person's social perspective.

"The history of the Confederate battle flag, how it was designed and formulated, how it has been used through the years, clearly states that it is a flag of white supremacy," Goldfield said. "I know current Sons of Confederate Veterans would dispute that, saying 'Hey, I'm not a racist.' But the fact remains that the battle flag was used by a country that had as its foundation the protection and extension of human bondage."

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